

er God had really given him what he promised. The waters parted, giving Elisha the assurance of God's presence and power.

V. 15. They could see from their point of observation the miracle at the Jordan, and knew that Elisha was Elijah's successor by divine attestation. They bowed their heads in recognition of the divinely appointed successor.

The Lesson Applied

1. *A Rich Legacy.*—Elijah was about to leave the world, but before doing so he makes some preparation for his successor. He wants to leave the world something, and that something was in harmony with his whole life. It was not gold that he would leave the world, not worldly riches, not material things at all, but far greater wealth, riches infinitely more valuable to the world than all the gold in its hills. It is far better to leave to this world when we depart, the influence of a holy life, than to leave millions in wealth for our children and grandchildren, for the legacy of a pure, righteous life, will continue thro the ages, while material possessions will take wings and fly away leaving the world worse than it was before.

2. *The Final Test.*—Who is worthy to receive the mantle of Elijah? Who will be his successor? That will depend, not on earthly influence, not on the number and kind of friends one may have, as in political matters, but solely on faithfulness. Elisha is put to a severe test. If under this test he remains faithful he will be the lawful successor of Elijah. With God no kind of influence has any weight except it be the influence of faithfulness and righteousness. Faithfulness is the one condition of promotion in the kingdom of God.

3. *Asking Great Things.*—According to our faith it will be unto us. The prophet said Elisha had asked a hard thing but it was the right thing and it was asked for in the right spirit, and he got it. Thus it is always. The reason some of us have so little spiritually, is because we ask for little and ask in little faith. Let us come to God in great faith, in faith believing, and he will grant us great things.

4. *The World's Good Men.*—The world's best men die, and it is always a loss when such men are called away. It leaves a gap in the ranks of the army of God's soldiers. But it is blessed when one is called away and the world mourns because it has lost something. If we would be missed we must make our lives pure and good and faithful and strong. We must take brave part in the battles of life against sin and for the right. Like the Master we must go about doing good, filling the circle in which we live with works of love and compassion. What will the world lose when you die?

5. *Elijah's Mantle.*—His work was done, but there was yet much to do for the Lord. There is an important lesson for the young. They should enter the service of the Master. Soon the older ones will be called away, and some one should be ready to take up their mantle and carry forward the work. The

worker dies but the work goes on. In the Sunday-school and young people's society is a good place for such preparation.

To Make You Think

1. When did we first hear about Elijah?
2. To whom did he appear?
3. What message did he have for Ahab?
4. How long since he first appeared?
5. What miracles do you remember in connection with his life?
6. Was Elijah's work now done?
7. Was there nothing more to do?
8. Why then did not Elijah remain to do it?
9. Is our work ever done?
10. Is there a time in any man's life when there is nothing more to do?
11. What request did Elisha make?
12. Why was that asking a hard thing?
13. Was it a wise choice?
14. What would you have asked under similar circumstances?
15. Did Elisha know that Elijah was about to be taken away?
16. Did he know in what manner he was to go?
17. Why was Elijah excused from death?
18. What change did he undergo as he went to heaven?
19. What New Testament incident shows that this did not end Elijah's life?
20. Was this a proof of immortality?
21. What legacy did Elijah leave to Elisha?
22. Was this worth more than money?
23. Where in this lesson are we given, (1) An example of true fellowship? (2) An illustration of persistent faith? (3) An evidence that faith is sure of reward?

Lesson Points

1. Here we see the value of godly friendship. The heritage of righteousness comes only to those who are of the household of faith.
2. Note the reward of urgent prayer: Ask—seek—knock; the answer is sure.
3. A pure, useful life is the richest legacy we can leave the world.
4. It was *before* not *after* Elijah went away that he was able to help his friend. Let us do good while we have opportunity.
5. Our gifts are limited by our faith.
6. Every true person leaves much of the power and beauty of his life to others.
7. The worker dies but the work goes on.

Helpful Illustrations

Elijah's spirit on Elisha. A man's best monument is a successor who has his spirit and who carries on to greater success his work. David Brainerd, that man of God, missionary to the American Indians, died when thirty-one years old. Jonathan Edwards stood at his deathbed and thanked God that he had heard the words of such a man. He himself became a missionary, and he sounded the call that rallied the Church of God to begin missionary work abroad. Brainerd's *Journal* went across the sea, and determined William Carey to be a missionary. Murray McCheyne read it, and as a result we have fifty missionary societies for taking Christ to the Hebrews. A young woman returned from a foreign mission field broken in health and ready to die. She formed a friendship with a bright young woman, upon whom so much of her missionary spirit descended that she became a mission-

ary, taking up her friend's work where she laid it down.—A. J. Gordon.

Elijah's successor. Elijah is swept out of sight in the whirlwind of the Lord, but Elisha returns in the spirit of Elijah. In this scene we have almost a solution of the death of the great and good. They lose nothing, for they rise to their reward, and their place here is better taken by another. In the order of God as he works his great work he changes his implements. He lays aside the stone mason when the stone is set, that the sculptor may begin to adorn the temple of God. Anon he stills the sound of the chisel, for the temple is ready for worship, and the ring of the chisel must be exchanged for those organ notes which shall lead the praise of God's worshipers in God's house. Joshua must take the place of Moses; Elisha must follow Elijah. Not only another, but a new and original man must displace the old.—C. L. Noyes.

Verse 15. If you have spiritual power, others will know it. You say that spiritual power is an invisible thing. Yes, but its results are visible. The life which spring puts into a tree is unseen, but the buds and leaves and fruit which result are apparent to the most casual observer. The power of an electric battery is invisible, but its results are widely known and seen. So with spiritual power—there will be visible results, and men will say, "He has his Master's spirit."

Our Bible School

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Monday: (1) The Importunate Widow. Luke 18:1-8. (2) The Pharisee and the Publican. Luke 18:9-14. (3) The Law of Divorce. Matt. 19:1-12.

Tuesday: (1) The Little Infants. Mark 10:13-16. (2) The Rich Young Ruler. Matt. 19:16-26. (3) The Dazzling Reward. Matt. 19:27-30.

Wednesday: (1) The Vineyard Laborers. Matt. 20:1-16. (2) The Ambitious request. Mark 10:35-45.

Thursday: (1) The Blind Man of Jericho. Mark 10:46-52. (2) The Visit to Zaccheus. Luke 19:1-10. (3) The Pounds. Luke 19:11-27.

Friday: (1) The Reverent Anointing. Mark 14:1-11. (2) The Triumphal Entry. Matt. 21:1-11. (3) The Prophetic Tears. Luke 19:39-44.

Saturday: (1) The Fig Tree Cursed. Mark 11:12-14; 20:25. (2) The Second Cleansing of the Temple. Mark 11:15-19. (3) The Challenged Authority. Mark 11:27-33.

Sunday: (1) The Two Sons. Matt. 21:28-32. (2) The Wicked Husbandmen. Matt. 21:33-46. (3) The Royal Marriage Feast. Matt. 22:1-14.

AUTHORSHIP OF THE BOOKS OF KINGS

1. From original works kept by public officials. Such records were kept by the Persian Kingdom. Esther 10:2, and 6:1. And also Nehemiah testifies that the Baby-